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AUTHOR Lyovin, Anatole V.
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ABSTRACT

The textbook is designed to introduce beginning students of linguistics to the variety of languages of the world. It assumes the reader has mastered the basic principles of linguistics, but seeks background information in the broad range of language phenomena found in the world's languages. Chapters address these topics: classification of languages, classification of writing systems; languages of Europe; languages of Asia; languages of Africa; languages of Oceania; native languages of the Americas (North, South, and Meso-America); and Pidgins and Creoles. Each chapter includes an extensive bibliography. An appendix contains 19 language distribution maps. Contents are indexed by subject and language. A general bibliography contains 377 references. (MSE)

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